

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1 and 16 as follows.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A linear fastener system comprising:
  - a shank member including an outer gripping surface, a first end, and a second end;
  - a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer tapered compression surface; and
  - a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner tapered compression surface, and an outer surface, wherein said inner tapered compression surface is constructed and arranged to cooperate with said outer tapered compression surface of said collet member;

wherein said inner tapered compression surface of said compression ring member is constructed and arranged for linear overlapping movement in relation to said outer tapered compression surface of said collet member between a first gripping position and a second release position, wherein said gripping position results in cooperation of said inner tapered compression surface with said outer tapered compression surface to compress said collet member thereby gripping said outer gripping surface of said shank member and wherein said release position results in expansion of said collet member thereby releasing said outer gripping surface of said shank member;

said shank member comprising a tensioning portion at said first end whereby said shank member is configured to be tensilely loaded when said collet member is in said release position, said tensioning portion comprising gripping structure separate and distinct from said outer gripping surface of said shank member.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface is generally smooth.

4. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface is threaded.

5. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface is knurled.

6. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface has a conjugate shape in relation to said outer gripping surface of said shank member.

7. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface has at least one inwardly depending lip, wherein said inwardly depending lip is constructed and arranged to cooperate with a conjugate surface on said outer gripping surface of said shank member.
8. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 7 wherein said inwardly depending lip is constructed and arranged to cooperate with at least one snap ring groove.
9. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 7 wherein said inwardly depending lip includes at least one conical surface; wherein said outer gripping surface of said shank member has a conjugate conical surface.
10. (CANCELED)
11. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said tensioning portion includes at least two generally flat surfaces.
12. (WITHDRAWN) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said tensioning portion includes at least one groove extending around the circumference of said first end of said shank member.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said shank member tensioning portion includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member.

14. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 13 wherein said internal bore includes threads.

15. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 13 wherein said internal bore includes at least one groove extending around the circumference of said internal bore.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) [[The]] A linear fastener system of claim 1 comprising:

a shank member including an outer gripping surface, a first end, and a second end;

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer tapered compression surface; and

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner tapered compression surface, and an outer surface, wherein said inner tapered compression surface is constructed and arranged to cooperate with said outer tapered compression surface of said collet member;

wherein said inner tapered compression surface of said compression ring member is constructed and arranged for linear overlapping movement in relation to said

outer tapered compression surface of said collet member between a first gripping position and a second release position, wherein said gripping position results in cooperation of said inner tapered compression surface with said outer tapered compression surface to compress said collet member thereby gripping said outer gripping surface of said shank member and wherein said release position results in expansion of said collet member thereby releasing said outer gripping surface of said shank member;

said shank member comprising a tensioning portion at said first end whereby said shank member is configured to be tensilely loaded when said collet member is in said release position;

wherein said tensioning portion includes a frangible stem, whereby said frangible stem is severed from said first end of said shank member when said shank member reaches a predetermined tension.

17. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said outer tapered compression surface of said collet member and said inner tapered surface of said compression member are constructed and arranged to maintain an interfitting relationship in said release position.

18. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said outer surface of said compression member includes at least two wrench flats for increasing or decreasing the said tension applied to said shank member.

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19. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of plastic.

20. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of copper.

21. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of brass.

22. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of bronze.

23. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of aluminum.

24. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of steel.

25. (ORIGINAL) The linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of rubber.